Problem Identification

AQM Subcommittee Meeting

April 4, 2006

Purpose

- Recommendations made by the two teams should address the problems and issues identified in:
  - the Future Air Quality Management Presentation,
  - the Vision and Principles,
  - and the AQM Subcommittee Structure Document

Futures Presentation

- PM is the most significant multi-pollutant problem followed by ozone and related air toxics
- Address air quality on the appropriate geographical scale
  - Locally (e.g. roadway hotspot exposures)
  - Regionally
  - Globally
- Integrate criteria and air toxics planning – multi-pollutant and sector-based strategies
- Address remaining pollution problems, including unregulated and smaller “area” sources
- Consider climate change effects and potential future climate/energy policy in air quality management decision-making
- Coordinate air quality and urban planning strategies (smart growth)
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of our actions individually and collectively (ensure accountability)
  - Ensure emissions reductions are achieved (e.g., continuous emissions monitoring)

Vision and Principles

Vision

Air in all areas of the country is of the highest quality, supporting a high quality of life that protects and enhances public health, ecosystems and other public welfare values, and economic well-being for all. Governments, businesses, and the public all have a common goal to improve and protect air quality because they understand the relationship between economic well-being, public health and ecosystem health, and other public welfare values. They work together in an atmosphere of trust towards the common goal. The nation's air quality management system is clear, open, transparent, accountable, effective, efficient, timely, equitable, cost-effective, and is consistent with science.

Vision and Principles

- Protect Public Health and Welfare through a Performance-based Approach
- Shared Responsibility and Partnership
- Multipollutant and Multimedia Approaches
- Regional, National, and International Measures
- Traditional and Innovative Approaches
- Effectiveness, Simplicity, Flexibility and Openness
- Certainty and Predictability
- Coordination with other Issues that Affect Air Quality
- A Strong, Continuing Research Program
- Information Must Be Accessible to All
- Efficiency

Structure Document

Team 1 Components

- **Problem definition and determining necessary reductions**
- **Determine meaningful boundaries (e.g. state, air shed or other approach)**
- **Transform the SIP process**
- **Provide for continuous progress and accountability (are goals being achieved)**
- **Deal with pollution transport (intercontinental, cross-border, regional, interstate)**
- **Define roles at each level of government (federal, state, tribal, local)**
- **Incorporate environmental justice and local impacts in air quality plans**
- **Adapt the AQM system to a changing (and most likely warmer) climate and increase coordination with other activities addressing climate change***
  - While the Subcommittee did not have consensus on the wording of this bullet, all members agreed that work could proceed.

Team 1 Components (cont.)

- Assess multi-pollutants, multi-effects
- Coordinate AQM with land use (agriculture, forestry, sprawl, water impacts)
- Increase trust between stakeholder groups, government agencies, and the public
- Improve communication and access to information
- Build partnerships among States, Tribes, industry, EPA and others
- Be more proactive at problem solving
- Expedite procedural requirements
- Build in feedback mechanisms
- Enhance ecosystem protection
- Increase collaboration on energy use

Team 2 Components

- Expand market/economic incentive approaches
- Achieve reductions, including criteria and toxic pollutants, from existing sources (stationary, area, and mobile)
- Ensure new sources are as clean as possible
- Identify areas where additional federal regulations are appropriate
- Expand the use of pollution prevention (e.g., efficiency, conservation, renewable/alternative energy sources)
- Encourage innovative, voluntary and flexible policy approaches (i.e., sectors)
- Ensure that emissions reductions are achieved from all source categories (including traditional and non-traditional sources)

Team 2 Components (cont.)

- Ensure that any new tools or strategies for use in the air quality management system be evaluated for their benefits or disbenefits to greenhouse gas emissions
- Expand control strategies to link AQM with land use
- Spur new technology
- Consider multiple pollutants when developing control programs and requirements
- Improve permitting
- Incorporate accountability/evaluation metrics into program design
- Further integrate transportation plans into AQM pollution mitigation programs
- Expand investments in human and technical resources

Next Steps

- Our review of the Team recommendations
- For the Teams to determine how the recommendations address the challenges facing future air quality management